

| ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET                                |          |           |                    |   |
|---|----------|-----------|--------------------|---|
| SUBJECT: (Optional)<br>Monthly Report -- Okinawa Bureau |          |           |                    |   |
| FROM:<br>Chief, Operations Group                        |          |           | EXTENSION          | NO.   |
|   |          |           |                    | DATE<br>December 1987   |
| TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)    | DATE     |           | OFFICER'S INITIALS | COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)   |
|   | RECEIVED | FORWARDED |                    |   |
| 1. C/Ops  | 19 Jan   |           | B                  | <p>Ref problem with laser printers: Heavy usage is the problem. We are asking Bureau to review operation with eye to reducing need for high number of multiple copies.</p> <p>B</p> |
| 2.  |          |           |                    |   |
| 3. C/E&PS   | 20 Jan   |           | J                  |   |
| 4. DD/FBIS  | 1/20     |           | E                  |   |
| 5. <del>D/FBIS</del>                                    |          |           | R                  |   |
| 6.  |          |           |                    |   |
| 7. PO/RA  | 1/20     |           | Om                 |   |
| 8. SA/CD  | 1/21     |           | Ex                 |   |
| 9.  |          |           |                    |   |
| 10. C/AS  | 22 Jan   |           | CD                 |   |
| 11. <del>DD/FBIS</del>                                  |          |           |                    |   |
| 12. C/AG  | 22 Jan   |           | mu                 |   |
| 13. Admin Staff   | 2063     | 1/26      | 1/26               |   |
| 14. PERS  |          | 27/1/88   |                    |   |
| C/B&F   |          |           |                    |   |
| 15. <del>D/FBIS</del><br>Exec. Reg.                     |          |           |                    |   |

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FBIS 5001-88  
5 January 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group  
FROM:  Chief, Okinawa Bureau  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Okinawa Bureau - December 1987

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I. GENERAL

A. The dollar continued falling to ever new record lows against the yen--reaching Y123.50 to \$1.00 in Tokyo and as low as Y122 to \$1.00 at base banks on New Year's Eve. Reflecting the dollar's weakness, Okinawa's COLA/post allowance rose to class 35 on 6 December, the highest ever. As a result, U.S. Forces personnel have abandoned many of their traditional off-base haunts (see attachment). There are clear indications that the Government of Japan will increase its share of personnel payments for U.S. military units in Japan, including FBIS, but details are not yet available for inclusion in budget forecasts.

B. In highly unusual local military action, on 9 December Japanese Air Force F-4 fighter-interceptors fired warning shots at an intruding Soviet Air Force TU-16 Badger reconnaissance plane over the East China Sea, just west of Naha. We sent NHK television and KYODO news service reports of the incident to local military consumers. The Soviet Government later apologized, blaming it on bad weather. Soviet reconnaissance planes have violated Japanese air space for many years, but this was the first time since World War II that shots were fired in the Okinawa air defense intercept zone--right at the time of the U.S. - Soviet summit in Washington.

C. Laser printers for the bureau's new FBA-1 computer LAN system have proved to be voracious consumers of drum units, burning out four in only two months--both original drums plus both spares by 18 December. We had to rely on a slow Okidata printer for a week until we received an emergency drum resupply on Christmas eve from Lockheed Electronics. We remain concerned about the extremely short life of the expensive (\$450 each) drum units. We have had no luck in finding a local supply source, since Japan's Toshiba, the manufacturer, reports the drums are assembled in the United States from Toshiba-supplied components.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. We laid on backstop recordings of key Seoul Bureau Korean coverage the week of the 16 December elections in the event protests grew to riots and disrupted Seoul's operations, but happily it was unused insurance. Bureau senior Japanese/Korean monitor [ ] returned to Okinawa on 19 December after a 7-week TDY. We also backed up Bangkok Bureau on VNA English press agency coverage during the SRV National Assembly session in late December.

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2. Chronic problems with our FBA-1 press agency module/station led us to request that other FBA-1 bureaus provide comments on the issue to Chief, Operations Group, in hopes that a better long-term hardware and software design can be found for the press module. Major problems include very slow functioning, slow availability of priority and higher items, failure to purge old files on command, and excessive logging to junk files of usable items.

3. We translated a complete issue of HONGQI, the CPC party journal normally done at Hong Kong Bureau, when Hong Kong failed to receive issue No. 22 and ours arrived in good time.

4. To fill a gap in the bureau's unique coverage of Mongolia, plagued by chronically poor reception of MONTSAME Russian and English press transmissions, we tried experimental coverage of Ulanbataar English international voicecasts, and placed one on regular coverage with one as backup.

5. We provided some backup coverage of Moscow TV in mid-month when Soviet satellites monitored at Caversham began behaving erratically, filing "World Today" program summaries in coordination with LD. In the same context, we dusted off our AFP-fax unit's Soviet press EPROM and successfully retested our ability to print Moscow newspapers. We shall try to insure that our skills remain current in future. LD agreed with us that round-the-world commercial faxing of papers did not seem a realistic option if PMU lost its pressfax.

### B. Cruising

The Vladivostok Navigation service bulletin, formerly transmitted in radioteletype, is now being transmitted in Morse. We resumed coverage from Morse transmissions effective 4 December.

### C. Communications

With Headquarters' assistance, the Guam ASC finally agreed on 11 December to halt daily resetting and keying of our Mode I circuit in connection with the new KG-84's, relieving staff

personnel of a daily hassle and reducing circuit downtime due to resets. The Guam Mode I circuit quality improved generally to a point where it no longer requires daily and nightly engineering liaison.

#### D. Technical

1. Regional engineer [ ] TDYed to Manila again from 8-12 December to correct and service defective equipment that limited the flexibility of the remote system. He was able to get the television unit operating, but a defective VCR had to be returned to Okinawa for repair, and a faulty board in a Watkins-Johnson receiver control unit still must be replaced.

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2. Late in the month bureau techs finally isolated a defective NIM board in the Japanese Unit's computer station. We believe that it has been causing repeated system crashes since October. We replaced the bad board, and crashes have ceased for the moment.

3. At ESG/FED request, we conducted a "live" modem test with Seoul on 15 December, using International Direct Dial services. While a solid, reliable connection was established with relative ease, a lack of filenames and other protocols prevented passing traffic, or the planned relay on to Hqs. Local checks confirmed that there are no special requirements or fees for using a modem on an IDD circuit in Japan.

#### E. Lateral Services

Regular procedures to provide an important consumer of the BBC Monitoring Service with the monthly Moscow TV feature "Man, Earth and Universe" monitored by Okinawa were established with MOD and LD.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

1. Regional engineer [ ] and family departed Okinawa on 18 December for a well-earned R&R leave in the United States; DRD editorial trainee TDYer [ ] completed her training successfully on 18 December and returned to Headquarters after a short Hong Kong private trip; admin officer [ ] and family returned to Okinawa 29 December after delayed home leave in the United States; Deputy Chief [ ] and wife [ ] completed an extended tour of 3 years 4 months on 31 December, and retired 1 January 1988 after 31 years and 8 months with FBIS. They will live in Vista, San Diego County, California, and will be sorely missed in Okinawa.

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2. Admin officer [ ] was promoted to GS-12 effective 3 January 1988.

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3. Chinese monitor [ ] resigned on 17 December and returned to Taipei. We received EOD approvals for new Chinese monitors [ ] of Manila, and [ ] of Taipei, and they are now seeking Japan entry visas.

*This is not a typo. B*

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4. Press reports indicate that Japanese local Master Labor Contract (MLC) employees will receive a record low pay increase of 2.34 percent this year, retroactive to last April.

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5. [ ] was presented his 30-year length of service pin by the bureau chief at the bureau Christmas party. Other staff personnel receiving pins were the bureau chief (20 years) and logs officer [ ] (10 years). Local MLC employees [ ] received 20 year certificates and gifts and 10-year certificates and gifts were received by [ ]

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[ ] The MLC gifts of lacquerware were envied by the staff employees.

#### B. Buildings and Grounds

1. Pending long-term arrangements at Headquarters to transfer funds directly to the Army Corps of Engineers in Washington for our housing recapitalization program, we passed to the local Corps a \$212,000 Hqs check covering recent yen/dollar rate cost increases and roof repair contract revisions to the seven 4-bedroom houses being renovated. Three more TCN families were relocated to other quarters so renovation work could continue.

2. Discussions with local Army communications command engineers about their partially complete, but not yet operating, microwave relay tower indicate the Okinawa Electric Power Company transformer station serving FBIS has only 6-7 Kva spare capacity, and the Army will ask OEPC to install a third transformer to cover FBIS and future Army needs.

#### IV. VISITORS

To the Bureau:

Brig.Gen. Peter D. Robinson, senior U.S. Air Force commander on Okinawa and commander, 313th Air Division at Kadena AFB, visited the bureau 1 December for an orientation tour; Mr. Richard McEwen and John Thompson, engineers for the U.S. Army Information Systems Command microwave relay tower project across the road from the bureau, visited 7 December to discuss power and water services capacities and tie-ins to FBIS mains; AG China analyst [ ] TDYed at the bureau 12-16 December for orientation and consultations with bureau monitoring and editorial staffs; Mr. Katsuyasu Kinjo, position classification specialist from the Kadena AFB Civilian Personnel Office,

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visited 14 December to explain the annual Master Labor Contract employee pay system and classification review process and brief senior staff supervisors; Lt. Col. Robert Suchke, new commander of First Battalion, First Special Forces Group, Torii Station, visited for orientation on 18 December.

From the Bureau:

The bureau chief TDYed to American Embassy Tokyo, Yokota AFB and U.S. Forces Japan Headquarters, and to FBIS Seoul Bureau for consultations 6-12 December; Korean senior monitor [redacted] completed his assistance TDY at Seoul Bureau on 18 December and returned to Okinawa; DRD editor-trainee [redacted] completed her training on 18 December and returned to Hqs; Regional Engineer TDY to Manila 8-12 December.

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#### V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

A traditional Christmas tree, snacks and liquid toasts on 23 December occasioned bureau celebrations in advance of the extra half-day holiday on 24 December. No pied pipers played for the affair, and suggestions that we tie red ribbons around the necks of the seven wee mousies captured during our recent anti-rat campaign and hang them on the tree were, of course, completely ignored.

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#### ATTACHMENTS:

Production Report  
Engineering Equipment Attachment

STARS and STRIPES

THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 31, 1987

# Pacific

## A little light music, maestro, to chase \$ blues

By Jim Lea

Stripes Okinawa Bureau Chief

OKINAWA CITY, Japan (Stripes) — Money was high on just about everyone's Hit Parade on Okinawa at year-end, but the tempo of the tune was determined by who was singing.

While merchants and most residents of Naha, the prefectural capital, were shaking to a disco beat, businessmen and American military personnel and their families in this central Okinawa community were moaning the "Weak Buck Blues."

Even though the Group of Seven industrial nations announced a week earlier they would stabilize the U.S. dollar at its then-exchange rate of just over ¥125, trading in the international currency market Monday showed that not many marketeers were listening.

The dollar closed Monday in Tokyo at ¥123.55, a postwar low, and Japanese television commentators speculated that the greenback could dip even lower before the foreign exchange market closed Dec. 31 for the New Year holiday.

**THAT RATE OF** ¥123.55 converted to an off-base bank exchange rate of ¥120.55, said spokesmen at both the Bank of the Ryukyus and Bank of Okinawa.

No one seemed to know exactly how low the dollar would go, but the predictions were gloomy.

While a former Japanese vice minister of finance said on a Japan Broadcasting Corp. NHK newscast he felt the buck would bottom out at about ¥120 next June, Martin Feldstein, former chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, said he felt a dollar would be worth only ¥100 within a year.

The darkest prediction came from a Sumitomo Bank official who said he believed the rate would be ¥85 yen to \$1 by mid-1988.

The continually shrinking value of the dollar has been good news to consumers in Naha. It has made the price of U.S. merchandise, especially food items that are very popular here — a result of 27 years of American occupation of Okinawa — cheaper, giving the average family more to spend on year-end frivolities.

The prefectural government announced last week that a survey of prices in the capital showed 17 consumer items had become cheaper as a direct result of dollar devaluation. The highest price reduction, 25.1 percent, was in imported tangerines.

Naha department stores opened their year-end gift sales Dec. 21 and officials at one store estimated its revenue over the 10-day period

Travel agents also reported they were swamped with people heading overseas for year-end vacations.

"Our foreign travel business is up almost 40 percent this year over last year," one travel agent in central Okinawa said. "It's almost more than we can handle."

Most tours to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Southeast Asia and elsewhere in the Pacific were booked solid as far back as October, she said, adding that while those destinations are the most popular, many travelers are heading for the United States.

"It seems like there are almost no hotel rooms left anywhere," she said.

But one man's boon is another's bane. For American military personnel and their families in central Okinawa, the situation is not a happy one. For the Japanese businessmen in Okinawa City who cater to Americans, it has, in at least one case, been tragic.

"We just don't go anywhere anymore," said Marjorie Johnson, an American housewife, summing up the feelings of most Americans. "We'd like to, but who can afford to?"

**ALONG OKINAWA CITY'S** Airport Street and Central Park Avenue, the major American shopping district in Okinawa, there were a few strollers and window-shoppers. But even though most merchants are holding their exchange rates at ¥150 or higher, the only places doing any business at all appeared to be the video tape shops that sell movies for an average \$7.

"Christmas business up and down the street was down about 40 percent compared to last year," one Central Park Avenue shopkeeper said. "That's on top of an overall loss of about 40 percent through the year."

"I don't know how much longer I can hold on," he said, adding that more than a dozen shops on the street had closed their doors for good during the past year. "Everybody is in the same boat. We're flat broke."

Going broke was the end of the world for one couple. The operator of a Chinese restaurant on the street and his wife were found dead in their home several weeks ago, the victims of an apparent dual suicide.

Other businessmen in the area said the restaurateur had borrowed heavily to open his business and an almost complete lack of customers had made repaying those loans impossible.

"He was a young man and he could have started over," one shopkeeper said. "What he did just shows how debilitating the situation is."

"We're all hoping that nobody else decides that's

ENGINEERING MONTHLY REPORT ATTACHMENT

EQUIPMENT RECEIVED : GE RADIO SYSTEM WHICH CONSISTS OF THE  
FOLLOWING;  
1. M-PD SYSTEM PERSONAL RADIO, 6EA, S/N  
9565339, 9565315, 9565319, 9565313,  
9565335.  
2. PHOENIX SX&PSX200, MOBIL COMMUNICATION,  
4EA, S/N 7169719, 7198817, 7169720,  
7127605.  
3. DELTA DESK TOP STATION, 2EA, S/N  
7219679-36, 7219680-36.

EQUIPMENT TRANSFERRED : NONE

EQUIPMENT DISPOSAL : NONE



## OKINAWA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1987

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 992,600  
 TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 489,360  
 TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: 2,982

|   | BROAD-<br>CASTS | PRESS<br>AGENCIES | PUBLI-<br>CATIONS |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u><br>(minutes or issues per week) | 21,185<br>min.  | 17,385<br>min.    | 175.79<br>issues  |

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:

## CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh SPK in  
 English

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## CHINA

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Beijing International Service to East and South Africa in<br>English | ---    |
| Beijing International Service to North America in<br>English         | 1,430  |
| Beijing International Service in<br>Japanese                         | ---    |
| Beijing International Service in<br>Mandarin                         | 170    |
| Beijing to Taiwan in<br>Mandarin                                     | 420    |
| Beijing to the USSR in<br>Russian                                    | 5,920  |
| Beijing Domestic Service in<br>Mandarin                              | 10,650 |
| Beijing Television Service in<br>Mandarin                            | 7,260  |
| Fuzhou Fujian Provincial Service in<br>Mandarin                      | 2,180  |
| Hangzhou Zhejiang Provincial Service in<br>Mandarin                  | 2,630  |
| Hefei Anhui Provincial Service in<br>Mandarin                        | 6,720  |
| Nanchang Jiangxi Provincial Service in<br>Mandarin                   | 6,400  |
| Nanjing Jiangsu Provincial Service in<br>Mandarin                    | 8,440  |
| Shanghai City Service in<br>Mandarin                                 | 3,340  |

|   | BROAD-<br>CASTS | PRESS<br>AGENCIES | PUBLI-<br>CATIONS |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Beijing HONGQI in<br>Chinese                  |                 |                   | 26,310            |
| Beijing XINHUA in<br>English                  |                 | 470,610           |                   |
| Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in<br>Chinese |                 | 121,880           |                   |
| Beijing BEIJING REVIEW in<br>English          |                 |                   | 4,960             |
| Fuzhou FUJIAN RIBAO in<br>Chinese             |                 |                   | 3,300             |
| Hefei ANHUI RIBAO in<br>Chinese               |                 |                   | ---               |
| Hangzhou ZHEJIANG RIBAO in<br>Chinese         |                 |                   | 1,010             |
| Nanjing XINHUA RIBAO in<br>Chinese            |                 |                   | 8,300             |
| Shanghai JIEFANG RIBAO in<br>Chinese          |                 |                   | 5,670             |
| Shanghai WEN HUI BAO in<br>Chinese            |                 |                   | 1,690             |
| Miscellaneous<br>Editorial Reports            | ---             |                   |                   |
|   |                 |                   |                   |
| JAPAN   |                 |                   |                   |
| Naha Radio NHK in<br>Japanese                 | 780             |                   |                   |
| Tokyo NHK Television Network in<br>Japanese   | 7,430           |                   |                   |
| Tokyo JPS in<br>English                       |                 | 4,090             |                   |
| Tokyo KYODO in<br>English                     |                 | 131,830           |                   |
| Tokyo JJI in<br>English                       |                 | 3,350             |                   |
| Tokyo AKAHATA in<br>Japanese                  |                 |                   | 150               |
| Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in<br>Japanese            |                 |                   | 8,640             |
| Tokyo ASAHI EVENING NEWS in<br>English        |                 |                   | 11,920            |
| Tokyo JAPAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL in<br>English    |                 |                   | 1,210             |
| Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in<br>English       |                 |                   | 5,830             |

|   | BROAD-<br>CASTS | PRESS<br>AGENCIES | PUBLI-<br>CATIONS |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in<br>Japanese           |                 |                   | 2,190             |
| Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in<br>Japanese       |                 |                   | 7,090             |
| Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in<br>Japanese             |                 |                   | 3,380             |
| Tokyo THE DAILY YOMIURI in<br>English           |                 |                   | 9,600             |
| Tokyo THE JAPAN TIMES in<br>English             |                 |                   | 10,370            |
| Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in<br>Japanese              |                 |                   | 100               |
| Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in<br>Japanese            |                 |                   | 5,620             |
| Naha OKINAWA TIMES in<br>Japanese               |                 |                   | 1,040             |
| Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in<br>Japanese               |                 |                   | 560               |
|   |                 |                   |                   |
| KOREA (NORTH)                                   |                 |                   |                   |
| Pyongyang KCNA in<br>English                    |                 | 2,220             |                   |
|   |                 |                   |                   |
| LAOS  |                 |                   |                   |
| Vientiane KPL in<br>English                     |                 |                   | ---               |
|   |                 |                   |                   |
| MONGOLIA  |                 |                   |                   |
| Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in<br>English              |                 | 4,170             |                   |
| Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in<br>Russian              |                 | 1,500             |                   |
| Ulaanbaatar International Service in<br>English | 50              |                   |                   |
|   |                 |                   |                   |
| TAIWAN  |                 |                   |                   |
| Taipei International Service in<br>English      | 4,370           |                   |                   |
| Taipei Domestic Service in<br>Mandarin          | 360             |                   |                   |
| Taipei CNA in<br>English                        |                 | 9,800             |                   |
| Taipei CHINA POST in<br>English                 |                 |                   | 5,370             |
| Taipei CHING CHI JIH PAO in<br>Chinese          |                 |                   | ---               |
| Taipei CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO in<br>Chinese         |                 |                   | ---               |
| Taipei CHUNG YANG JIH PAO in<br>Chinese         |                 |                   | ---               |

|   | BROAD-<br>CASTS | PRESS<br>AGENCIES | PUBLIC-<br>CATIONS |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Taipei LIEN HO PAO in<br>Chinese                  |                 |                   | ---                |
| Taipei TZU LI WAN PAO in<br>Chinese               |                 |                   | ---                |
| UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS               |                 |                   |                    |
| Moscow to Japan in<br>Japanese                    | 8,940           |                   |                    |
| Moscow International Service in<br>Mandarin       | 15,860          |                   |                    |
| Moscow to Southeast Asia in<br>Mandarin           | 1,190           |                   |                    |
| Moscow RPP to Asian-Pacific Region in<br>Mandarin | 1,990           |                   |                    |
| Moscow Domestic Television Service in<br>Russian  | 15,850          |                   |                    |
| Vladivostok Domestic Service in<br>Russian        | 340             |                   |                    |
| VIETNAM   |                 |                   |                    |
| Hanoi International Service in<br>Mandarin        | ---             |                   |                    |
| Hanoi VNA in<br>English                           |                 | 910               |                    |